

REMARKS

Claims 2-3 and 5-7 are pending in this application, of which claims 5 and 7 have been amended. No new claims have been added.

The Examiner has maintained from the previous Office Action the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claims 2 and 5-7 as anticipated by '34091' and the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claim 3 as unpatentable over Novitschitsch.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As noted in Applicants' previous response, FIGS. 2 and 3 of '34091' show that elastic deformation of "second engager" 23 occurs only when bolt 31 is screwed into it.

In contrast, in the present invention, only first engager 8b contains a screw hole, while second engager 8d uses elastic deformation of the engaging piece 8h for clamping the attaching plate to the frame.

The elastic deformation of the engaging piece 8h does not relate to the screwing of bolt (screw) 5. In contrast, '34091' shows that elastic deformation of second engager 23 occurs only when bolt 31 is screwed into it.

More specifically, in '34091', the fixture (20) is passed through into the fixed hole (11) of the attaching plate (9) without being elastically deformed when it is inserted from the upper side of Fig. 2 and Fig. 3. After that, the bolt (31) is inserted into the fixture (20) from the upper side of Fig. 2 and Fig. 3, and is screwed into the screw hole (22). Depending on the progress of rotational fastening of bolt (31), the clamping pieces (23) are bent so as to contact the attaching plate (9).

Therefore, '34091' does not disclose both elastic deformation when passing through the fixed hole and elastic restoring after passing through fixed hole.

In contrast, in the present invention, each engaging piece is elastically passed through a fixed hole in the attaching plate and is elastically restored after

passing through the fixed hole so as to clamp the attaching plate regardless of the bolt screwing.

Further, in the present invention, the screw hole is formed in each first engager. In contrast, in '34091', the screw hole (22) having the screw threads is formed only in an end portion of the fixture (20).

In response, the Examiner has urged that the portion 23 (corresponding to the second engager in the present invention) actually does elastically deform when passing through the fixed hole in the attaching plate or is elastically restored after passing through.

Applicants respectfully disagree. FIG. 2 of '34091' shows that fixed hole 11 is large enough to prevent portion 23 to pass through it without elastic deformation.

Furthermore, FIG. 3 of the instant application shows a solid engaging plate 8a to which first and second engagers (8b, 8d) are attached such that the screw hole 8c which is formed only in the first engager 8b does not pass through the engaging plate 8a so as to connect with the rectangular shaped hollow 8e formed in the second engager 8d.

Novitschitsch also fails to disclose these features.

Accordingly, claim 5 has been amended to recite this distinction.

Thus, the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections should be withdrawn.

Claim 7 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 2-3 and 5-7, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

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CUSTOMER NO.: 21874

Respectfully submitted,

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